

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the two paragraph abstract beginning at page 111, line 1, with the following rewritten single paragraph abstract:

A ¶ The present invention relates to novel secretory polypeptides and precursor proteins thereof, which show a high homology to MIA (melanoma inhibitor activity)/CD-RAP (bovine cartilage-derived retinoic acid-sensitive protein); are specifically expressed in the cartilage tissue; and have an effect on the cartilage differentiation. The polypeptides and the DNAs encoding the same can be used for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of bone and joint diseases or pathological angiogenesis. As well, the polypeptides are useful as a reagent for screening a compound that promotes or inhibits the activity of the polypeptides. The antibody to the polypeptides can be used for the detection, quantification, or neutralization of the polypeptide in a test sample fluid. Further by using the promoter of the present invention, a therapeutic protein can be expressed predominantly in the cartilage tissue for a gene therapy. ¶